

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 11-17 are amended. Most of the claims are amended merely to improve their grammar and to make explicit what was already implicit therein. Claim 12 has been amended to even more clearly distinguish over the applied reference. Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form. No new matter is added by the above amendments.

Applicant claimed foreign priority and submitted a certified copy of the priority application (Japanese Application No. 2000-164062) when this application was filed on May 29, 2001. Confirmation of receipt of the certified copy is requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claim 11. Applicant submits that claim 11 remains allowable after entry of the above amendment to claim 11. Applicant also notes with appreciation the identification of allowable subject matter in claim 6. Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, as detailed below.

Claims 1-4, 7-10, 12 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over "Windows 98 Professional Reference" (hereafter WPR). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In rejecting the claims, the Office Action refers to chapter 27, page 16 of WPR, under the heading "Print Hard Copy of a Web Page", where it is indicated that "[b]y default, ... and the URL and the current date are in the footer" when a web page is printed. The Office Action also refers to chapter 17 of WPR, which indicates that there are two identical copies of a FAT. However, WPR does not disclose or suggest the combinations of features recited in the independent claims of this application.

The URL identifies the address of a web page, which is provided, for example, at a server. When a user accesses a web site via the user's computer, the URL does not identify a location in the user's computer of any images which may be associated with that web page.

Accordingly, with respect to independent claim 1, WPR does not disclose or suggest "adding to the print at the printing device the transmitted information indicative of the location of the digital image data in the computer." As noted above, when a user's computer sends image data to a printer in order to print a web page, the URL address that also may be printed with the image of the web page does not represent (i.e., it is not indicative of) the location of the digital image data (i.e., the image of the web page) in the computer. Rather, the URL identifies the address of the web page.

Somewhat similarly, with respect to independent claims 12 and 13, WPR does not disclose or suggest the claimed combination of a computer of a customer having a storage for storing digital image data, the computer also including a first output for transmitting to an external device an order including the digital image data and an information indicative of a location of the digital image data in the storage, which is part of the customer's computer. As noted above, the URL does not indicate the location of the digital image data in the storage of the user's computer. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 12 and 13 are patentable over WPR.

With respect to independent claim 8, WPR does not disclose or suggest a printing device for making a print of a digital image data, including the claimed combination of a receiver that receives from an external device an order including information indicative of a location where the digital image data is stored, a printer that makes the print of the digital image based on the order, and an adder that adds to the print the received information indicative of the location where the digital image data is stored. The URL only identifies the web page. It does not indicate the location where the digital image data is stored.

In addition to the reasons for patentability of claim 12 discussed above, WPR also does not disclose or suggest the claim 12 computer including "a second output for transmitting to the external device an encrypted information indicative of a location added to a print for requesting to decrypt the encrypted information." While the Office Action relied

upon US 2002/0165911 to Gabber et al. for the encryption feature, Gabber et al. provides no motivation to transmit encrypted data to an external device. The encrypted URL addresses discussed in Gabber et al. are for internal file management use by the computer, and clearly are not disclosed or suggested for being transmitted to an external device. Accordingly, claim 12 is patentable over WPR (alone or combined with Gabber et al.) for this additional reason.

With respect to independent claim 14, while WPR discusses duplicate file allocation tables (FATs), WPR does not disclose or suggest the combinations of steps recited in claims 14 and 17. For example, WPR does not disclose, and it is not inherent in the use of two FATs, a second step of recording in a second database a change in the location of the digital data in the first database, the fourth step of consulting the second database in response to the third step of determining the current location of the digital data in the first database, or the fifth step of locating the digital data in the first database in response to the fourth step, as recited in independent claims 14 and 17. Accordingly, independent claims 14 and 17 are patentable over WPR.

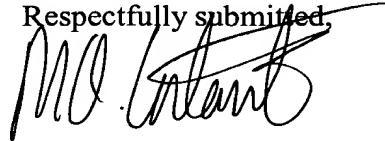
Claims 5 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over WPR in view of Gabber et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which it ultimately depends. Claims 5 and 13 also are patentable over Gabber et al. combined with WPR because, as mentioned above with respect to claim 12, Gabber et al. does not disclose or suggest transmitting encrypted data to an external device. That is, while Gabber et al. may encrypt a URL, this encrypted information is used for internal file management, and is not disclosed or suggested for being transmitted outside of the computer. Accordingly, claims 5 and 13 also are patentable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

MAC/ccs

Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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